

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A microtube comprising:
a container having an open end defining an opening for receiving materials to be contained, and a closed end; and
a lid adapted to make closing contact with the opening of the container;
wherein the lid is provided with a flange extending outwardly therefrom, wherein the flange is positioned within the half of the lid proximal to the hinge, extends upwardly at an angle of about 90 degrees, and is arranged to move towards the closed end of the container upon application of a mechanical force to a surface of the flange so as to remove the closing contact and open the container.
2. (Original) A microtube as claimed in claim 1 which is a test tube or microcentrifuge (microfuge) tube suitable for holding relatively small volumes of material.
3. (Original) A microtube as claimed in claim 2 wherein the relatively small volume of material is a volume up to 4 ml.
4. (Previously Presented) A microtube as claimed in claim 1 which is a microfuge tube.
5. (Previously Presented) A microtube as claimed in claim 1 wherein the lid is adapted to make a sealing contact with the opening of the container.
6. (Previously Presented) A microtube as claimed in claim 1 wherein the lid is connected to the container by a connecting means.
7. (Previously Presented) A microtube as claimed in claim 6 wherein the connecting means provides for relative movement between the lid/flange and the container.

8. (Previously Presented) A microtube as claimed in claim 7 wherein the connecting means is a hinge, flexible connecting strip, rivet or adhesive.
9. (Original) A microtube as claimed in claim 8 wherein the connecting means comprises a hinge which may be fixed to the upper perimeter wall of the container defining the opening, and to the lower surface of the lid, and about which the lid/flange and container can move.
10. (Previously Presented) A microtube as claimed in claim 1 wherein the lid is adapted such that the flange extends outwardly from a position adjacent to or in axial alignment with the connection means.
11. (Original) A microtube as claimed in claim 10 wherein the flange extends upwardly.
12. (Previously Presented) A microtube as claimed in claim 1 which is constructed of a plastics material.
13. (Original) A microtube as claimed in claim 12 wherein the plastics material is laboratory grade injection moulded plastic.
14. (Previously Presented) A microtube as claimed in claim 1 wherein the lid and flange parts of the tube are made as an integral part of the container.
15. (Previously Presented) A microtube as claimed in claim 1 wherein the flange is adapted for use as a handle.
16. (Currently Amended) A microtube comprising:
 - a container having an open end defining an opening for receiving materials to be contained, and a closed end;
 - a lid connected to the container by a hinge and adapted to make closing contact with the opening of the container; and
 - a flange extending outwardly from the lid, wherein the flange is positioned within the half of the lid proximal to the hinge, extends upwardly at an angle of about 90 degrees, and is arranged such that upon application of a mechanical force to the surface of the flange, the lid

and flange pivot about the hinge so as to remove the closing contact between the lid and open the container.

17. (Previously Presented) A storage system/vessel comprising one or more microtubes as defined in claim 1.
18. (Original) A storage system as claimed in claim 17 wherein the storage system/vessel is a rack, a reaction vessel or a centrifuge.
19. (Previously Presented) A method for using the microtube of claim 1, comprising placing a material into the microtube, and using the microtube as an aseptic storage vessel, reaction vessel, or vessel for centrifugation of said material.